

CHAPTER 28 ACCESS TO EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

283—28.1(261) State-supported grants. The access to education grant program is a state-supported and administered grant based on financial need to Iowa residents who attend community colleges in Iowa.

28.1(1) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“*Community college*” means any public, two-year institution of higher education as defined in Iowa Code section 260C.2, subsection 3.

“*Full-time resident student*” means an individual resident of Iowa who is enrolled at an Iowa community college in a course of study including at least 12 semester hours or the trimester or quarter equivalent of 12 semester hours. “Course of study” does not include correspondence courses.

“*Pell grant*” means the federally funded and operated need-based entitlement grant program available to undergraduate students.

“*Qualified student*” means a resident student who has a federal Pell grant index up to 20 percent over the index cutoff for a Pell grant, who is making satisfactory progress toward graduation, and who is not receiving a Pell grant.

28.1(2) Student eligibility. A recipient must be an Iowa resident who is enrolled for at least 12 semester hours or the trimester or quarter equivalent in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate from an Iowa community college. The criteria used by the state board of regents to determine residency for tuition purposes, 681 IAC 1.4(262), are adopted for this program.

28.1(3) Self-supporting applicants. For purposes of determining financial independence, the commission has adopted the definition in use by the U.S. Department of Education for the federally funded student assistance programs. Self-supporting applicants must certify their status on the financial aid form and supply any required documentation to the educational institution.

28.1(4) Award limits and eligibility requirements.

a. A grant may be awarded to any qualified person who is accepted for admission or is enrolled for at least 12 semester hours or the trimester or quarter equivalent.

b. The annual amount of the grant to a full-time student shall not exceed a student’s financial need or \$250, whichever is less.

c. Grants shall be awarded on an annual basis and shall be credited by the institution against the student’s tuition, fees, and room and board charges, at the beginning of each term in equal installments upon certification that the eligible student is enrolled.

d. If, after crediting the amount of the grant to the student’s tuition, fees, and, if applicable, room and board charges, a credit balance remains, the institution may distribute the grant balance to the student who may use the proceeds for other bona fide education expenses such as books, equipment, and transportation.

e. If a student receiving a grant under the program discontinues attendance before the end of any academic period, but after receiving payment of grant funds for the academic period, the pro rata share of any refund due the student applicable to the state grant shall be paid by the institution to the state.

28.1(5) Extent of grant. A qualified full-time student may receive grants for not more than four semesters of undergraduate study or the trimester or quarter equivalent.

28.1(6) Application process. Eligible students shall apply for this grant through the use of an approved financial aid form, which uses the federally accepted method of needs analysis. The application form must be received by the need analysis processor by the deadline date specified by the commission.

28.1(7) Full year of study. For purposes of this program, the commission has defined full year of study as either three quarters or two semesters. Grant payments are prorated according to this definition.

28.1(8) Priority for grants. If funds are insufficient to pay all approved grants, grants will be offered first to those eligible applicants meeting the commission’s priority deadline.

28.1(9) Award notification. A grant recipient is notified of the award by the educational institution to which application is made. The institution shall clearly identify the access to education grant on the student's aid award notice. The institution is responsible for completing necessary verification and for coordinating other aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility requirements and allowable award amounts. The institution reports changes of student eligibility to the commission.

28.1(10) Award transfers and adjustments.

a. Awards may be transferred among eligible institution(s).
b. Recipients are responsible for promptly notifying the appropriate institution of any change in enrollment or financial situation. The educational institution will make necessary changes and notify the commission.

28.1(11) Restrictions. A student who is in default on a Stafford Loan, SLS Loan, or a Perkins/National Direct/National Defense Student Loan or who owes a repayment on any Title IV grant assistance or state award shall be ineligible for assistance under the Iowa grant program. Eligibility for state aid may be reinstated upon payment in full of the delinquent obligation or by commission ruling on the basis of adequate extenuating evidence presented in appeal under the procedure set forth in 283—Chapter 5, Iowa Administrative Code.

28.1(12) Institutional reporting. The commission will monitor the program according to this chapter and will require participating postsecondary institutions that receive funds for enrolled students to furnish any information necessary for the implementation or administration of the program.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 261.98.

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CHAPTER 29 DISPLACED WORKERS FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

Rescinded IAB 10/25/95, effective 11//29/95